



The jungle club

Karen Batiste, acting youth services manager, Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library

ver the summer holidays Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (WMRLC), in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, conducted its annual program for primary school-aged children — the Summer Reading Club. This club has in previous years been supported by statewide funding. Although this funding was not available this year, a number of libraries across Melbourne decided to collaborate in order to continue with this popular activity — with 'the jungle' as our theme. This theme lent itself to a variety of activities, including jungle drum workshops, and mask making.

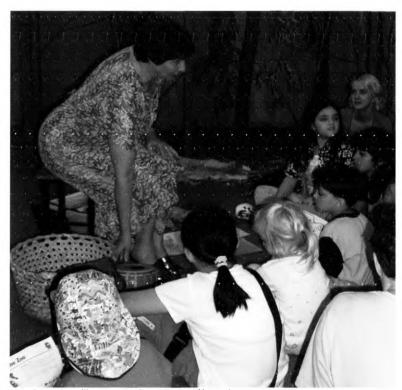
For the first time, WMRLC held two collaborative projects with the Melbourne Zoo School. A chance encounter between one of our Youth Services librarians, Pauline Moncrieff, and Senior Eduction Officer, Judith Holcombe, led to discussions about how the Zoo and the library could work together with our jungle theme in mind. The Zoo came to Nunawading library with an array of pelts, skulls, feathers and shells and the library offered a trip to the Zoo School. On a muggy Monday in January, fifty-four library patrons met at the Zoo, and we had an exciting morning with several concurrent programs being offered in the Zoo School. This allowed a unique trip to the Melbourne Zoo, where children and their families could learn about rainforests and touch rare and special animals.

There were two levels of activities offered — *Whose nose? Zoo nose* for children aged 5 and under; and a tour of the Zoo School for children 6 and over. Library staff also conducted two storytime sessions with a zoo theme in the classrooms of the Zoo School, which again provided the opportunity for the children to have hands-on experiences with animals.

The success of this collaborative project, which has been measured by the number of attendees and their enjoyment, has encouraged us to continue such collaborations in the future. This project has been mutually beneficial to the Corporation and the Melbourne Zoo School in terms of publicity within our community, as well as providing an opportunity to demonstrate what dynamic places libraries can be.

I would like to thank Judith Holcombe from the Melbourne Zoo School for allowing us to participate in such a memorable experience — we are the first library service to arrange activities with the Zoo School! I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of The Friends of Nunawading Library for their sponsorship of the Jungle Club this summer.

For further information about this session at the Melbourne Zoo School, please contact Karen Batiste at karenb@wev.vic.gov.au or Judith Holcombe at jholcombe@zoo.org.au.



Youth services librarian Pauline Moncrieff conducts a storytime session at the Melbourne Zoo School